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# USAF Public Health Career Field News

**Volume 1 Issue 180**

**June 1999**

## PH Salutes Departing SNCO

SMSgt Tom Prien retires next month after 26 years of loyal service as an American Airman. Tom – you'll be greatly missed – congratulations and best of luck!



Mac

**SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT  
THOMAS R. PRIEN**



Senior Master Sergeant Thomas R. Prien was born in Parkston, South Dakota on 9 Jun 1954. A 1972 graduate of Hirschi High School in Wichita Falls, TX, Sergeant Prien entered the Air Force in September 1973. Upon completion of Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX he attended Veterinary Service Technical Training at Sheppard AFB, TX. After graduation in March 1974, he was married and assigned to the USAF Hospital, Tinker AFB, OK., as a Veterinary Specialist, where he performed food inspection, sanitation evaluations, and small animal care. In June, 1978, Sergeant Prien received an assignment to the USAF Clinic, Sembach AB, Germany where along with his regular duties, he completed his Associate of Applied Science in Environmental Medicine. In June, 1982, Sergeant Prien moved back to the United States and worked at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX. During this time the career field was renamed Environmental Health Services, and Sergeant Prien was selected to work as the NCOIC, Epidemiology. In June, 1986 Sergeant Prien was selected for another overseas assignment to USAF Clinic, Zweibrucken AB, Germany. Here the career field received another name change to Military Public Health and Sergeant Prien was selected to work as the NCOIC/Superintendent of Military Public Health. In 1990, Sergeant Prien arrived at Williams AFB, AZ and assumed the duties of Superintendent of Military Public Health, 82d Medical Squadron. In June, 1993 he was assigned to the 82d Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Sheppard AFB, TX, as the Superintendent of Military Public Health. He was then reassigned as the Chief, Medical Readiness, and after two years assumed the duties of Squadron Superintendent and Associate First Sergeant. During this time Sergeant

Prien also completed his Associates Degree in Public Health Technology and his Bachelors Degree in Occupational Education from Wayland Baptist University. In June, 1997 Sergeant Prien made another move overseas to Incirlik AB in Turkey as the Squadron Superintendent for the 39th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. In August, 1998, Sergeant Prien was assigned to MacDill AFB, FL and currently serves as the Superintendent, 6th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.

Senior Master Sergeant Prien holds a nine skill level in Public Health. His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two devices, AF Commendation Medal with one device, AF Achievement Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award with six devices, AF Good Conduct Medal with seven devices, the National Defense Medal with one device, AF Overseas Ribbon (short tour), AF Overseas Ribbon (long tour) with one device, AF Longevity Service Ribbon with five devices, AF PME Ribbon with one device, Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, and the AF Training Ribbon.

Senior Master Sergeant Prien is married to the former Teresa Lung, recently celebrating their 25th anniversary. They have three children, Amy (21), Steven (18), and Emily (12).